



Proposed Land Acquisition/Airspace Establishment in Support of Large-Scale MAGTF Live Fire and Maneuver Training

Project Update Notice Number 4—November 2009

**Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command
Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center
Twentynine Palms, CA**

The Project Update Notices offer a focused way to provide easily accessible, wide-spread distribution of new Project information.

They augment the regular updating of key Project public documents carried on MCAGCC's Land Acquisition Study webpage.

Please see these other Project documents for an overview and key background information.

➤ **Range of reasonable alternatives selected for study in EIS**

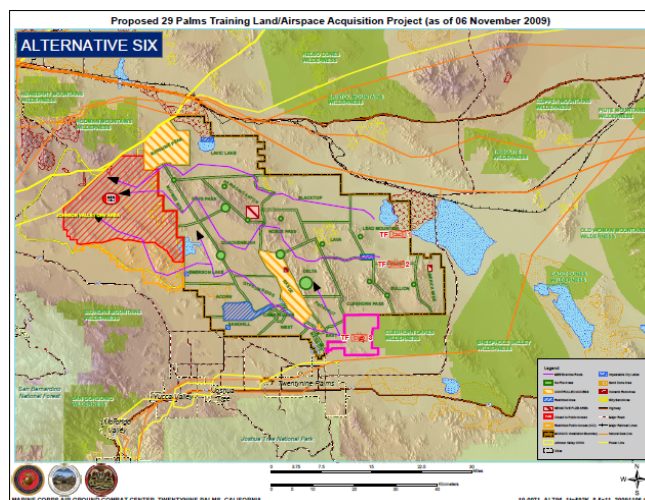
Nearly 20,000 comments on five proposed study alternatives were presented during the public scoping process from October 2008 – January 2009. The Marine Corps and the Department of the Navy considered these comments in developing the range of reasonable alternatives to meet Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) training requirements that will be studied in the project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This resulted in modifications to the five “scoping” alternatives and a new, sixth alternative was developed. The published No Action Alternative remained unchanged.

➤ **New Alternative Six responds to public input for an additional joint-use alternative**

- Under Alternative 6, The Marine Corps would not petition the Congress for withdrawal of the approximately 40,000 acres west of the Fry Mountains. While this area would not be used for Marine Corps training, the Marine Corps could administratively access this area for transit to Marine Corps training areas for safety and logistics purposes such as maintaining training infrastructure in the Marine Corps training areas. The administrative transit of the area would be coordinated with the Bureau of Land Management.
- Under Alternative Six, the Marine Corps would use about 40,000 acres of the withdrawn area for sustained, combined-arms, live-fire and maneuver training approximately twice a year for approximately one month each time, during which time it would be closed to public use. Only non-dud-producing ordnance would be used in this portion of the exercise area. After range clearance and during the rest of the year, this area in the southeast of the potential acquisition area, which includes the Hammers, would be open to the public for recreation and similar uses.
- Under Alternative Six, the balance of the proposed withdrawal area – approximately 100,000 acres – would be used regularly for Marine Corps training – including MEB training – and would be withdrawn from public access.

➤ **Future Significant Project Milestones:**

- Draft EIS – September 2010
- Public Comment on Draft EIS – Fall 2010
- Final EIS – July 2011
- Record of Decision – October 2011



For Further Information Please Contact

29Palms Training Land/Airspace Acquisition Project

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